

Message Text

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ACTION LOC-01

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P 101132Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5139

UNCLAS CAIRO 9370

FOR LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS BOORSTIN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, EG, AFSP

SUBJECT: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS APARTMENT

1. YOUR PRESENT REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ALVIN MOORE HAS DONE A SUPERIOR JOB IN DIRECTING THE ACTIVITIES OF YOUR LOCAL LOC OPERATION. WHILE WE WILL MISS HIM HERE IN CAIRO, I AM PLEASED THAT YOU PLAN TO ASSIGN A PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE. MICHAEL ALBIN APPEARS TO HAVE EXCELLENT CREDENTIALS TO ASSUME THESE RESPONSIBILITIES AND CARRY ON THE GOOD WORK OF THE LIBRARY.

2. THERE IS ONE COMPLICATION WITH THIS ASSIGNMENT THAT I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION. ON YOUR LAST VISIT TO CAIRO YOU OFFICIALLY OPENED THE NEW LOC OFFICES IN GARDEN CITY. THE PREVIOUS OFFICE, LEASED BY EMBASSY FOR LOC, WAS RETAINED, FULLY RENOVATED AND PREPARED FOR USE AS A TRANSIT APARTMENT FOR USG TDY PERSONNEL. THE PRESENT CONFIGURATION ALLOWS SPACE FOR UP TO NINE TRANSIENTS PLUS LIVING AND DINING ROOM FACILITIES. THE HOTEL SITUATION IN CAIRO REMAINS CRITICAL AND THIS TRANSIT FACILITY FOR VISITING OFFICIALS (AVERAGING 200 PER MONTH) HAS BEEN A GOD-SEND. IT IS A STRIKING SUCCESS, VERY MUCH IN DEMAND AND HAS GIVEN US FLEXIBILITY TO HANDLE THE INCREASING FLOW OF OFFICIAL VISITORS. OUR EMBASSY ASSOCIATION NOW MANAGES THE APARTMENT AND HAS ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL RENTAL AND UTILITY PAYMENTS.

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3. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT LOC REQUESTED THIS

APARTMENT BE RETURNED FOR USE AS LIVING QUARTERS FOR MR. AND MRS. ALBIN. FRANKLY, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS OUR BEST INTEREST TO USE THIS AS A SINGLE APARTMENT UNIT WHEN IT IS FILLING A MANDATORY REQUIREMENT FOR THE MISSION. IT IS PERHAPS TOO LARGE (THERE WERE 23 EMPLOYEES WORKING THERE WHEN IT WAS THE LOC OFFICE) FOR A SINGLE COUPLE AND WE WOULD BE AT A DEFINITE DISADVANTAGE IF WE WERE UNABLE TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE TRANSIT QUARTERS FOR OFFICIAL VISITORS.

4. I PROPOSE THAT THIS APARTMENT BE RETAINED FOR TRANSIENTS AND THAT WE LOCATE ALTERNATE HOUSING FOR THE ALBINS. APARTMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AND THE ASSOCIATION HAS AGREED TO REIMBURSE LOC LE 600 PER MONTH WHICH IS SUFFICIENT TO OBTAIN VERY GOOD QUARTERS. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR APPROVAL.

5. GREATLY ENJOYED YOUR VISIT TO CAIRO AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN.
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